

Weekly Column for March 16, 2006

Last week at the Planning Board meeting, members of the public and the board heard for the first time, plans for a new Walgreens Pharmacy at the corner of Hoosick Street and South Lake Avenue.

The project is the first significant change we have seen on Hoosick Street, in terms of commercial development, since Zoning changes the City Council passed in late 2004. That zoning change, and subsequent discussions since have made it clear that life along Hoosick Street is changing.

I understand that this can be difficult to some, particularly those that have lived along Hoosick Street for so long. But with traffic increasing along Hoosick Street on a yearly basis, we would be foolish to not try and capitalize on that.

This Walgreens is an example of that. Sure, there are some concerns over the project, but they pale in comparison to what it could mean for Troy. Increased commercial business on Hoosick Street will go a long way towards boosting our tax base, and encouraging other companies around the United States that Troy is a great place to set up shop. This project alone is a \$4 million investment in an area that is ripe for commercial activity.

I assure you that the City, and the Planning Board, which is a separate entity from Troy, will listen to all concerns from surrounding residents of the area. Either way you look at it though, this is an exciting project, and perhaps of sign of great things to come along Hoosick Street.

On another topic, we had a rough situation this week with a water main break on Old Sixth Avenue Tuesday night. It was a large, and rather old pipe that burst. We're doing all that we can to help the residents in that area. Water service to all residents in Troy is back where it should be, and the Boil Water Advisory has been lifted.

Last year at this time, we had 12 water main breaks in City. As of Tuesday morning we had four. Most of that is due to the fact that we have had warmer than normal weather this winter. The rest is due to the fact that we purchased a Z-COR machine last fall that allows us attack some these water issues before they become bigger problems.

We will continue to work with this equipment as best we can to help control water main issues. But make no mistake, we live in an old City, and things like this are going to happen from time to time. The only thing we can do is work are hardest, and ask for the patience of all our residents.

Have a great weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy